In my last address to you, I had indicated a broad outline of the programme of work of my Government for the current year. You will be happy to note that most of the suggestions contained in my address have been carried out.

Public Services.

The integrity and efficiency of the Public Service being of paramount importance in the field of administration, my Government have already carried out a scheme of all round revision in the pay scales of Government employees with particular emphasis on the raising of the emoluments of low-paid employees to reasonable levels. This would certainly contribute to contentment in the services which in turn would add to efficiency.

A Department of Enquiries has been constituted to look into delays and allegations of corruption. It is expected that with substantial betterment of service conditions and close watch of the activities of Departments, there will be noticeable improvement in the administration.

Land Policy.

Among the salient features of the Land Revenue Administration during the financial year 1955-56, the most important one is the enactment of Edavagai Rights Acquisition Act passed with the object of conferring full proprietory rights on the tenants of the Edavagai lands of Kilimanoor, Vanjipuzha, Poonjar and Edappally by acquiring the rights of the Edavagai Chiefs over these lands on payment of lawful compensation. The result of the legislation is that with effect from 1st April, 1956 the tenants of these lands get full proprietory rights over the lands subject to the payment of basic tax as in the case of other registered holdings without being liable to pay any compensation for the same.

Another mile stone in the land policy of the State is the enactment of the Travancore-Cochin Prevention of Eviction of Kudikidappukars Act by which Kudikidappukars are assured permanent rights of occupancy in the Kudiyirippus. The legislation benefits a large section of landless class who were put in the lands belonging to others without any permanency.

A number of measures for land legislation consistent with the declared policy of the nation towards the achieve-

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ment of a socialist order are now under the consideration of Select Committees and Government hope that these will be enacted into law in the coming year.

With a view to ensuring more efficient administration of the Revenue Department, Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the necessity for the redistribution of the Taluks and Villages into compact units. The report of the Committee has been received by Government. My Government will soon take a decision on the recommendations of this Committee and implement their decisions in the next year.

The Government have recognised the need for a re-survey of the Travancore area of the State, in view of the imperfect condition of the land records in this area.

Planning.

This year marks the close of the First Five Year Plan which leads into the Second. It is gratifying to note that my Government have accelerated the progress of the Schemes under the First Plan and that in many cases the targets have been achieved even ahead of schedule. While the State's outlay in the First Plan has been fixed in the neighbourhood of Rs. 30 crores, the outlay in the Second Five Year Plan on items so far finalised will be Rs. 71·20 crores. Even-though this amount is not adequate for our requirements, our limited resources would not allow a greater outlay. This will be supplemented by allotments under certain heads like, water supply and drainage, for which the Government of India has not distributed allotments to States. The outlay which my Government proposes to programme for the next year will be very much higher than the average annual outlay under the First Five Year Plan. There can be no doubt that investment of this size will give substantial relief to unemployment and at the same time add to the national wealth and *per capita* income. My Government propose to execute the Second Plan in close association with non-official Bodies and Committees as was done in its preparation. The successful implementation of the Plan will depend on the whole-hearted co-operation which the public and non-official leadership can provide in its execution.

Community Development.

The Community Projects, four Development Blocks and fourteen National Extension Blocks formed part of the First

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